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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

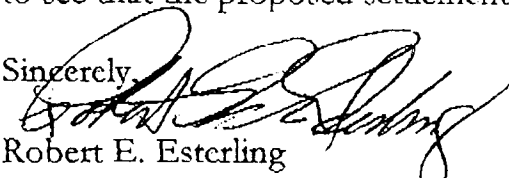
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

For those who follow technology and business news, the two have been unfortunately linked through the US vs. Microsoft suit. The decline of the NASDAQ and the teetering technology market both have the instability of Microsoft in this suit as their source.

The longer that the suit continues, the more damage will be done to the economy and to the world of technology. Special interests have kept this suit alive for much longer than needed. It is time now for the Department of Justice to put the needs of the consumer first by ending this suit. Microsoft has agreed to more than any company should be asked to do, such as opening up its intellectual property rights to the internal interface of its Windows operating system to its competitors, and agreeing to be monitored by a Technical Committee to which any third party may file a complaint against Microsoft.

This period of public comment is a great opportunity for the Department of Justice to know that many people in America support Microsoft and want to see it succeed for the good of the economy and for the good of American business. The Department of Justice owes the American people an end to this suit and an end to its meddling into American business. I urge you to see that the proposed settlement be formalized as soon as is legally possible,

Sincerely,

  
Robert E. Esterling